

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00820 161729Z
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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0820

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SA, RH, IC
SUBJECT: NORDIC INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND U.S.
CONSULTATIONS WITH NORDIC COUNCIL

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 3402; (B) STOCKHOLM 2568; (C) REYKJAVIK
424 (NOTAL)

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST AND CAREFULLY EXAMINED PROPOSALS
IN REF A. WE HAVE HOWEVER COME TO CONCLUSION THAT, AT LEAST
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO MAKE OUR
POSITIONS ON KEY ISSUES KNOWN TO EACH NORDIC ON BILATERAL
BASIS RATHER THAN TRY TO USE NORDIC INSTITUTIONS AS VE-
HICLES FOR US REPRESENTATIONS. WE SHARE EMBASSY STOCKHOLM'S
VIEW THAT NORDICS (AND CERTAINLY ICELANDERS) WOULD RE-
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SENT OUR EFFORTS TO EXERT INFLUENCE OF ANY KIND OVER
PURELY NORDIC GATHERING. SENSITIVITIES ON VARIOUS
ITEMS, EVEN WHEN INTRODUCED INTO PROCEEDINGS BY FELLOW
NORDICS (SEE REF C), WOULD SEEM TO US TO UNDERLINE
INADVISABILITY OF TRYING TO INTRODUCE ITEMS OURSELVES.
WE CAN CERTAINLY MAKE SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TO GOI
TO COINCIDE WITH PERIOD IMMEDIATELY BEFORE NORDIC FOR-

EIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS IF SERIOUSNESS OF ISSUE REQUIRES, BUT OUR BELIEF IS THAT CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT YEAR ON ISSUES ON WHICH WE MIGHT WISH NORDIC SUPPORT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR REASONS OF SENSITIVITY NOTED ABOVE. ICELANDIC OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN AND OFTEN RECEPTIVE TO OUR COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND WOULD DOUBTLESSLY AT LEAST HAVE OUR POSITION IN MIN DURING DELIBERATIONS IN NORDIC MEETINGS.

2. ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, THE NORDICS ARE ALREADY OUT IN FRONT OF MOST COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF TAKING STRONGER ACTIONS TO UNDERLINE THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES, IAN SMITH, INVESTMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ETC. HOWEVER, EVEN AMONG THE NORDICS THIS ISSUE IS TREATED WITH VARYING DEGREES OF CONCERN FROM THE STRONG SWEDISH AND DANISH POSITIONS TO THE LESS INTERESTED ATTITUDE OF ICELANDERS.

3. CONCLUSIONS: IN SUM, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST TRYING TO USE NORDIC INSTITUTIONS AS VEHICLES FOR OUR OWN POSITIONS. WE RECOMMEND INSTEAD CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO TIMELY BILATERAL PRESENTATIONS IN EACH NORDIC CAPITAL WITH NO APPARENT REFERENCE TO SCHEDULED NORDIC GATHERINGS EXCEPT WHERE ISSUE OF MAJOR POLICY IMPORTANCE TO US IS INVOLVED.
BLAKE

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